

May 5, 1998



The Honorable Tom Daschle
Senate Minority Leader
SH-509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daschle:

On behalf of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), and the 27,000 certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) we represent, I would like to applaud your efforts to bring the issue of patient protections before the United States Senate.

As you know, AANA has long been an advocate of patient protection legislation such as the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act (PARCA - H.R. 1415/S. 644). We are delighted that Congressional Democrats are pushing similar patients' rights legislation. Your bill, S. 1891, includes many of the most important ideas that we have long sought—provisions that give Americans the option of choosing their own health care providers and require some accountability from all health plans. In addition, while we appreciate your inclusion of a provider non-discrimination provision in your legislation, we look forward to working with you in the future to strengthen that provision to resemble the Balanced Budget Act's provision regarding provider non-discrimination.

As this debate has unfolded, it has come as no surprise that the majority of members of Congress agree with the vast majority of the public: Americans deserve patient choice, access to providers, accountability and fairness in their health care system. Congress can pass these reforms with only marginal impact on health costs. But only Congress can do it. These are bipartisan problems that require bipartisan solutions.

Thank you for your attention to the concerns of patients across the United States. Your legislation will go far to address the problems faced by all of us, as patients, as we seek access to high quality health care.

Sincerely,

Scot D. Foster, CRNA, PhD
AANA President